

Ms. Jacqueline Beaudry
City Clerk
City of Ann Arbor, Michigan
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

July 10th, 2019

Dear Ms. Beaudry:

Re: Proposed Dhu Varren Road Improvements Project: Curb and Cutter & Sidewalk
Special Assessment District No. 53, File No.19-0881

This is to respond your letter dated June 21st, 2019. As we may not be able to attend the 07/15 hearing, we'd like to express our concerns and comments as follows.

Our questions/concerns:

- 1. What is the exact scope of the project, where to start and where to end?**
Does the entire Dhu Varren Road from Nixon Farms to Pontiac Trail (lots of our neighbors rumor it is) be included? Can the City provide a map indicating the proposed sidewalk project that can be easily viewed and read by those who do not have engineering background?
- 2. Low utilization of Dhu Varren Road sidewalk**
Michigan has a freezing and snow-burying season for at least 6 months, plus sun-scorching and high humidity summer of 1 to 2 months, so ask ourselves how many months the proposed projected sidewalk can be walked on? Maybe 4 or 5 months the most. Why do we fund for a project that does not have a full utilization for 365 days?

3. **Why the Dhu Varren Road Sidewalk is a must-have now?**

Foxfire Condo was established in the early 1990, we rarely heard Foxfire residents requesting for a sidewalk on Dhu Varren Road. If it is not needed in the past 20 some years, it is not needed now.

Not like the environment of the Nixon Farms newly establishing Condo that has limited space, so a sidewalk becomes necessary for outdoor activities like walking dogs, jogging, strolling and etc. Foxfire Condo adjoins a park in the northern part of the Condo, residents have plenty of space to walk dogs, stroll babies, play balls and all kind of sports you name it. On the southern part of Foxfire Condo, there are both trail and sidewalk connecting to another park and residential communities. Given the above, a proposed sidewalk project on Dhu Varren Road seems not a must-have.

4. **Why Dhu Varren Road Sidewalk project is a priority?**

While the roads we drive on daily, such as Green Road (from Chapel Hill Condo to Plymouth Road), Nixon Road (from Nixon and Dhu Varren roundabout to Nixon and Huron Parkway roundabout) and Plymouth Road Exit (the ramp adjacent to US-23 north/southbound entrances), are in poor conditions that need immediate fix. All funding either from Federal or State, as far as we are concerned, shall go to resurface/repave the broken roads we travel on every day.

Yes, we saw potholes were patched on those “bumpy” roads recently. “Patching potholes is similar to putting a bandage on a gaping wound — it slows the bleeding, but doesn’t repair the damage,” he said. “Cold-patch asphalt will fill the hole so tires don’t plunge into it, but it’s not a true repair and does nothing to keep water out.” Above is a quote from *Dan Weingarten, communications representative for the Michigan Department of Transportation’s Superior Region/ Dealing with potholes.*

And, please do not tell us some of the road sections belongs to Ann Arbor Township, or some belongs to the City, so the City government does not have the total control over it. Our tax payers may not know what belongs to who. It is between the City and Township to align who fix what, and ensure the entire road is fixed. As the residents of the City and also tax payers, we hope that roads are not dangerous to drive on daily, especially during winter time.

We urge those who have the power and authority to fund the development project to spend a few minutes driving around those roads mentioned above, and they will realize that funding on sidewalk on Dhu Varren Road is not bang for the buck, comparing to fixing bumpy roads around Foxfire Condo vicinity.

Our comments:

1. City development projects to any community benefit and matter to all residents of the community, so whoever lives alongside (or near) of Dhu Varren Road driving/walking in and out of the conduit to Green Road or Nixon Road daily shall be financially obligated for this so-called one-time amount assessment, if the proposed project is finally decided. **We believe all residents of Foxridge, Foxfire phase 1&2 and all single-family houses shall pay their fair share without exclusion.**
2. Property owners of Foxfire 2 are excluded from paying this one-time amount assessment because Foxfire 2 does not have any frontage adjacent to Dhu Varren Road, as mentioned in Mr. Brian Slizewski's letter dated 06/07/2019, if the proposed project is finally decided. **Same analogy from Mr. Slizewski's, then only those properties that have direct frontage adjacent to Dhu Varren Road shall be obligated for the one-time amount assessment not ALL Foxfire 1 residents.** Most of the properties in Northern Foxfire Condo are located at the center of the North Foxfire Condo and do not have any frontage adjacent to Dhu Varren Road.

In a nutshell, for the proposed sidewalk on Dhu Varren Road project, the City is unilaterally accessing a proposed project, and then notifying property owner pay a tax which is an unexpected addition to summer and winter taxes. The proposed project as well as the way of the assessment of the projected tax amount is unacceptable. We hope that the City could re-evaluate and consider what we suggest above before making a decision on a development project for the northeast side of Ann Arbor.

Sincerely,

Beni and Joanne Tang

Property Owner of

Foxfire Condo

cc: Mr. Jeff Hayner, City Council Ward 1

Ms. Anne Bannister, City Council Ward 1